

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraphs [0004] and [0015] of the specification with the following identically numbered paragraphs.

[0004] An estimated 1 million Americans suffer from Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). IBD is characterized by a chronic inflammatory response that results in histologic damage to the intestinal lining. Crohn's disease may involve the entire gastrointestinal tract and include inflammation extending into the transmural mucosa, whereas ulcerative colitis affects solely the large bowel and includes inflammation of the innermost lining. These two distinct diseases require a rapid differential diagnosis for optimal treatment. Conventional methods utilizing multiple endoscopy examinations and histological analysis may take years to confirm a diagnosis. U.S. Patent No. 6,218,120⁹ discloses a method of determining the presence of serum ANCA as a marker to diagnose IBD. However, it does not disclose a method for diagnosing ulcerative colitis in a patient diagnosed with IBD. Further, the method does not disclose testing human feces for the presence of ANCA.

[0015] ANCA specific immunoassays may be used to differentiate ulcerative colitis and indeterminate colitis from Crohn's disease by measurement of the presence of total endogenous ANCA. In addition to fecal matter, a sample of whole blood, serum, plasma or other bodily fluid or tissue may be tested for ANCA to diagnose ulcerative colitis. This differential diagnosis may then be used by healthcare professionals for determining optimal treatment. A qualitative immunoassay, such as a lateral flow dipstick that utilizes both monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies to endogenous human ANCA to indicate the presence of ulcerative colitis. Claim 14